

assigned seat or gallery, and the Sergeant at Arms will assist Members in finding their seats.

All Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in still photography or audio or video recording in the Chamber. Taking unofficial photographs detracts from the dignity of the proceedings and presents security and privacy challenges for the House.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2037

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS PURSUANT TO HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 69 TO RE- CEIVE A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Ms. Kathleen Joyce, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The joint session will come to order.

The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN);

The gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES);

The gentleman from New York (Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR);

The gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER);

The gentleman from California (Mr. MCCARTHY);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE);

The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK);

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON);

The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE); and

The gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Sen-

ators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER);

The Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW);

The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR);

The Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE);

The Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO);

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST);

The Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT); and

The Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Hersey Kyota, the Ambassador of the Republic of Palau.

The Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of the United States and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, the Honorable William J. Walker, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of Congress, I have the high privilege and the distinct honor of presenting to you the President of the United States.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The PRESIDENT. Madam Speaker, Madam Vice President, our First Lady and Second Gentleman, Members of Congress and the Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court, my fellow Americans, last year, COVID-19 kept us apart. This year, we are finally together again.

Tonight, we meet as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents but, most

importantly, as Americans with a duty to one another, to America, to the American people, and to the Constitution, and with an unwavering resolve that freedom will always triumph over tyranny.

Six days ago, Russia's Vladimir Putin sought to shake the very foundations of the free world, thinking he could make it bend to his menacing ways. But he badly miscalculated.

He thought he could roll over Ukraine and the world would roll over. Instead, he met with a wall of strength he never anticipated or imagined. He met the Ukrainian people.

From President Zelensky to every Ukrainian, their fearlessness, their courage, their determination literally inspires the world—groups of citizens blocking tanks with their bodies, everyone from students, to retirees, to teachers turned soldiers defending their homeland.

And in this struggle, President Zelensky said in his speech to the European Parliament: "Light will win over darkness."

The Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States is here tonight, sitting with the First Lady. Let's each of us, if you are able to stand, stand and send an unmistakable signal to the world and to Ukraine.

She is bright, she is strong, and she is resolved.

Yes, we, the United States of America, stand with the Ukrainian people.

Throughout our history, we have learned this lesson: When dictators do not pay a price for their aggression, they cause more chaos. They keep moving. And the cost and the threats to America and to the world keep rising. That is why the NATO alliance was created, to secure peace and stability in Europe after World War II.

The United States is a member, along with 29 other nations. It matters. American diplomacy matters. American resolve matters.

Putin's latest attack on Ukraine was premeditated and totally unprovoked. He rejected repeated efforts at diplomacy. He thought the West and NATO wouldn't respond. He thought he could divide us at home, in this Chamber and this Nation. He thought he could divide us in Europe as well.

But Putin was wrong. We are ready. We are united. And that is what we did. We stayed united. We prepared extensively and carefully. We spent months building coalitions of other freedom-loving nations in Europe and the Americas, to the Asia and the African continents, to confront Putin.

Like many of you, I spent countless hours unifying our European allies. We shared with the world in advance what we knew Putin was planning and precisely how he would try to falsify and justify his aggression.

We countered Russia's lies with the truth. And now that he has acted, the free world is holding him accountable, along with 27 members of the European Union, including France, Germany,